



Center for Community Preparedness Volunteer Management – LAVA and Medical Reserve Corps

The Center for Community Preparedness (CCP) serves as the catalyst that efficiently carries out the roles and responsibilities of Emergency Support Function (ESF) - 8. ESF-8 is responsible for providing leadership for planning, directing and coordinating the overall State efforts to provide public health and medical services. Volunteer Management is the program by which emergency volunteers are recruited, retained, trained, and deployed in the State of Louisiana for public health emergencies and day-to-day activities. Volunteer Management provides a pool of pre-credentialed and pre-identified volunteer staff (medical and non-medical). The tool and mechanism by which this is achieved is through the Louisiana Volunteers in Action System (LAVA) and the State's Medical Reserve Corps Program. Funding for this program ensures that the state has the extra hands needed to adequately respond to disasters. Decreased funding would impede the volunteer outreach process.

Objective

To provide a volunteer workforce that is ready to respond to disasters and day-to-day health emergencies.

Performance Indicators

1. The number of volunteers recruited.
2. The number of volunteers that participate in trainings and exercises conducted.
3. The number of volunteers that participate in a real-life response.
4. The response rate of volunteers during drills/exercises and real-life responses.
5. Number of partnerships achieved through outreach to other volunteer organizations.

Narrative

As Louisiana plans for disasters and future public health emergencies, volunteer management during these turbulent times is an essential component to the response. The Center for Community Preparedness – Volunteer Management Program encompasses two essential state volunteer programs – Emergency Systems for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) and the State Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). Louisiana Volunteers in Action (LAVA) is Louisiana's approach to the federally mandated ESAR-VHP Program and the Medical Reserve Corps is also a federal initiative comprised of organized medical and public health professionals who serve as volunteers to

respond to natural disasters and emergencies. These two programs were designed on the federal level to work collaboratively together during response. For the past two years, these programs have been working collaboratively together in Louisiana to leverage resources and better coordinate volunteer response. During Hurricanes Gustav and Ike the two programs collectively deployed over 1,500 volunteers across the state.

The programs emerged to ensure that those individuals deployed possessed the credentials and skill sets needed to adequately offer their assistance. The program work to ensure that the state has a ready to deploy pool of medical and non-medical volunteers who are willing, trained, and credentialed to serve in times of disaster and to support ESF-8 operations. These operations include and are not limited to the following:

- Medical Special Needs Shelter (MSNS)
- Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)
- Medical Institution Evacuation Plan (MIEP)
- Temporary Medical Operations Staging Area Operations (TMOSA)
- Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI)
- Points of Dispensing (POD)
- Mortuary Services
- Bus Triage

The Volunteer Management Program is locally driven through the state's six Medical Reserve Corps and Volunteer Outreach. This enables communities to function autonomous and have the resources need to support response.

Better Health

The state has realized after many recent events that Louisiana can not respond alone. It takes a cadre of resources and personnel for a successful response. This program works to ensure that the state has the extra hands needed to support Medical Special Needs Shelter Operations, Bus Triage, H1N1 Vaccinations, etc. The consistent message on the federal level is "response is local." The state should be ready and equipped to take care of themselves during an emergency. Building a strong volunteer structure in Louisiana can help to ensure that communities have what it takes to respond. No one knows a community better than its occupants. Therefore a state cannot overlook the most obvious resources—the community.

The activities of the Volunteer Management Program are mandated by several state and federal requirements. These include:

- CDC PHEP Cooperative Agreement
- Department of Health and Human Services – Hospital Preparedness Program Grant
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) - 21
- Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA)
- Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, R.S. 29:760
- Louisiana Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) 2009 update

- HSPD-5, Management of Domestic Incidents
- HSPD-8, National Preparedness

Evidence

Volunteer Deployment:

Link: www.lava.dhh.louisiana.gov

2005: Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ~8,500

2008: Hurricane Gustav and Ike ~1,500

Trust for America's Health Report: Ready or Not?

Link: <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror08/>

- 2006: 6 out of 10
- 2007: 8 out of 10
- 2008: 10 out of 10

National Report Card on State Emergency Management

Link: <http://www.emreportcard.org/Louisiana.aspx>

- 2008: Disaster Preparedness – A

Strategic National Stockpile Technical Assistance Review

- 2007: 83%
- 2008: 94%
- 2009: 100%

Cities Readiness Initiative Technical Assistance Review

2007

- Baton Rouge: 12%
- New Orleans/ Metairie/Kenner: 1%

2008

- Region 1: 28%
- Region 2: 16%
- Region 3: 35%
- Region 9: 23%

2009

- Region 1: 88%
- Region 2: 88%
- Region 3: 97%
- Region 9: 83%